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The Netherlands

Poultry and Products

Update of the Avian Influenza Outbreaks in The Netherlands 2003

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Report Highlights: So far positively diagnosed farms have only been found in the center of The Netherlands. The poultry sector fears that the outbreaks will spread to the South-East of The Netherlands.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], NL

Measures by the Dutch Government

On March 31, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture divided The Netherlands into five zones. It is prohibited to move any vehicle from a location in one zone where poultry is present, to another location with poultry in any other zone. Transport, import and export of poultry products is permitted only under strict conditions on hygiene, whether inside or outside the more restrictive Control Areas. Export and import of live poultry is prohibited with the exception of export of live poultry to designated slaughterhouses in Germany. Two of the five zones are Control Areas A and B in which the Avian Influenza is found (see the attached map). With a few exceptions, in the two Control Areas transport of live poultry is prohibited.

Status of the Outbreaks and Culls

The number of suspect and positively diagnosed farms increased from 130 to 198 during the past week. Of these farms, 161 have been positively diagnosed for Avian Influenza. All of these 161 farms are located in the two Control Areas (A and B). As of March 31, 8.6 million birds on 536 farms had been culled. It is estimated that about 10 million birds (or ten percent of the Dutch poultry flock) on more than 600 farms will be culled. The sector still fears that the Avian Influenza outbreak will spread to the South-East of The Netherlands where about the half of the Dutch poultry flock is located.

Research Conducted by the MinAg Regarding the Cause of the AI Outbreaks

The Ministry of Agriculture informed the EC that transport and human contacts were an important factor in the spreading of the Avian Influenza virus. The Ministry believes, however, that water birds infecting free range chickens were the most probable cause of the initial infection.